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NIXON'S ⁵
Cheshire Prophecy ^{10/6. 1/6}
AT LARGE,

Published from Lady COWPER's
correct Copy, in the Reign of
Queen Anne.

WITH
Historical and Political Remarks,
AND
Several **INSTANCES** wherein it has been
fulfilled.

ALSO, His LIFE.

Nixon unfolds the dark Decrees of Fate,
Foretells our Second George shall make us
great,
That Gallia's Politics are all a Trance,
For Brunswick's Arm shall conquer wily
France.

Sold wholesale by *W. Nichols*, Printer, at
Aylesbury: also by *J. Cheney*, Banbury.

British Museum

Printed by the British Museum Press

London

1911



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Introduction.

THIS remarkable Prophecy has been carefully corrected, and an account given of its author Robert Nixon, who tho' an idiot, and followed the plow, was in an amazing manner endued with the spirit of prophecy, as the following will plainly shew. As to the credit of this prophecy, I dare say it is as well attested as any of the last century.

I would not have grave persons despise inspirations of Nixon, for the late French King gave audience to an inspired Farmer, and rewarded him with 100 Pounds

for his prophetical intelligence; though by what we can learn, he did not come near unto *Nixon* for gifts.

[unclear]

The Cheshire Prophecy has so many oddities in it, hat it cannot fail of being entertaining to the Reader; and the simplicity, the circumstances, and the history of it so remarkable, that I could not help communicating it to the Public, who I hope will be as much delighted with it as myself.

By the way, this is not a Prophecy of to-day, it is as old as the Powder Plot; and the story will make appear, that there is as little imposture in it as the Jacobites pretend there is in the person it seems to have an eye to, but whether or no they are both impostures or not, I leave it to the Reader to determine.

[unclear]

Nixon's Prophecy.

IN the reign of King James I, there lived a fool, whose name was Nixon. One Day he came from the plough out of the Field, and laying down the things he had in his hands, he remained some time in the dumps, and then with a very hoarse voice, said, Now I will prophecy. Then he spoke as follows:

When a Raven should build in a stone Lion's Mouth, on the top of the Church in Cheshire, then a King of England shall be driven out of his Kingdom, and never return more.

When an Eagle shall build on the top of the house, then an Heir shall be born to the Cholmondley family; and the heir shall live to see England invaded with foreigners, who shall proceed so far as a town in Cheshire; but a Miller named Peter shall be born with two heels on one foot, and at

that time living in a mill of Mr. Cholmondley's; he shall be instrumental in delivering the nation. The person who then governed the nation will be in trouble, and skulk about. The invading King shall be killed, laid across a horse's back like a calf, & led in triumph. The miller having been instrumental to it shall bring forth the person that then governs the Kingdom, and be knighted for what he has done, and after that England shall see happy days. A young new set of men of virtuous manners, shall come, who shall prosper, and make a very flourishing church for 200 years.

As a token of the truth of all this, a wall of Mr. Cholmondley's shall fall. If it falls downwards, the church shall be oppressed, and never rise more; but if upwards, next the rising hill on the side of it, then it shall again flourish. Under this wall shall be found the bones of a British King.

A pond shall run with blood 3 days, and the cross stone pillar in the forest sink so low in the ground, that a crow from the top of it shall drink the best blood in England.

A boy shall be born with 3 thumbs, and shall hold 3 King's horses, while England

shall be 3 times won and lost in one day.

The original may be seen in severl families in that country, and is particularly in the hands of Mr. Egerton, of Holton, with many other remarkables, as that peccorfen mill be removed to Ludditon Hall, and that Olton mill shall be driven with blood instead of water.

All which prophecies have been made manifest in the following manner:

The family of the Cholmondleys is very ancient in Cheshire, and takes its name from a place so called near Nantwich; there are also Chinton and Cholmonston; but the seat of that branch of the family, which kept our prophet Nixon, is at Vale Royal, on the River Wever, in De La Mere forest. It was formerly an Abbey, founded by Edward I. and came to the Cholmondley's, from the famous family of the Holcross. When Nixon prophesied this family was extinct, their heir having married Sir Walter St. John's Daughter, a Lady not very young, who, notwithstanding, being with child, fell in Labour, & continued so for three days; during which time an eagle sat on the house top, and flew away as the

was delivered of a son.

A Raven is also known to have built in a stone lion's mouth, in the steeple of the church at Over, in the forest of De la Mere. Not long before the abdication of King James, the wall spoken of fell down, and fell upwards; and in removing the rubbish, were found the bones of a man, of more than ordinary size. A pond at the same time ran with water that had a reddish tincture, and was never known to have done so before nor since.

Headless Cross in the forest which in the memory of man, was several feet high, is now sunk within half a foot of the ground.

In the parish of Budworth a boy was born with three thumbs, about eighteen years ago, the youth is still living there; and the miller Peter lives in Norginshire mills, in the expectation of fulfilling the prophecy in the person of Perkin. He also has two heels on one foot, but I find he intends to use them in the interest of King George; is zealous for the Protestant succession in the house of Hanover, has a vote for the knights of the Shire, and gives his vote on the right side

In one sentence, Peter will prate and box for the good old cause Nixon listed in, which none bids fairer for; which the Lady Egerton perceiving, and wishing well to another revolution, she very often desired her husband to turn him out of the mill; but he looked on it as whimsical, and Peter continues there in hopes of being a Knight.

Of this Peter I have been told the Lady Narcliff of Chelsea, and Lady St. John of Battersea, together with several other persons of credit and fashion, have attested the truth of this prophecy.

The noise of Nixon's predictions coming to the ears of the King, he would need see this Fool, who cried, and made much ado that he might not go to court, & the reason he gave was, that he should be starved. The King being informed of Nixon's refusing to come, said, he would take particular care that he should not be starved, and ordered him to be brought up. Nixon cried out, he was sent for again, and soon after the messenger arrived, who brought him up from Cheshire. How or whether he prophesied to his Majesty no body can tell; but he is not the first fool that has made a good

court prophet. That Nixon might be well provided for, it was ordered that he should be kept in the kitchen; but he grew so troublesome in licking & picking the meat, that the cooks locked him in a hole, and the king going on a sudden from Hampton court to London, they forgot Nixon in the hurry, and he was starved to death.

There are many passages of this foolish prophet's Life and sayings, transmitted by traditions from the fathers in this country, at that when he lived with a farmer, before he was taken into Mr. Cholmondley's family, he goaded an ox so terribly, that one of the plowmen threatened to beat him for abusing his Master's beast. Nixon said, thy master's beast will not be his three days. A life in an estate dropped in that time, the Lord of the manor took the same ox for an harriot.

Among others who attested the facts relating to the above prophecies, was Mrs. Chute, sister to Mrs. Cholmondley, who affirmed, That a multitude of people gathering together to see the raven before mentioned, the bird was affrighted from her young; that she herself was one, and the cry among the people was, Nixon's prophe-

cy is come to pass, & we shall have a foreign king. She declared that she read over the prophecy many times, when her sister was with child of the heir who now enjoys the estate. She particularly remembered that king James the second was there plainly pointed out, and that it was foretold he should endeavour to subvert the Laws and religion of this kingdom; for which reason they should rise & turn him out. That the eagle of which Nixen prophcyed, perched in one of the windows the whole time her sister was in Labour; that it was the biggest bird she had ever seen, and that it was in a deep snow; and that it perched on the edge of a bow window, which had a large border on the outside; and that she and many others opened the window to scar it away, but it would not move till Mrs. Cholmondley was delivered; after which it took flight to a great tree overagainst the room her sister lay in, where having staid three days, it flew away in the night.

That the falling of the Garden wall was a thing not to be questioned, it being in so many people's memory. That it was foretold the heir of Vale Royal should live to see England invaded with foreigners; and

that he should fight bravely for his king & country; that the Miller is alive, expecting knight-hood, and is in the very mill; that it is foretold he should kill 2 Invaders, who would come from the North; that he from the North should bring with him the Swedes, Danes, Germans, and Dutch; and in the folds of his Garments he would bring Fire, Famine, Plague, and Murder.

That many battles should be fought in England, and one on *London Bridge*, which should be so bloody, that the people should ride up to their horses bellies in blood.

That several battles should be fought in the country Palatine of Cheshire; and that the last in England, was to be on De la Mere Forest.

That the heir of Orton, whose name is E——, and has married Earl Cholmondley's sister, should be hanged at his own gate.

Lastly, Nixon foretells great Glory and Prosperity to those who stand in defence of the laws and liberties; and misery to those who betray them. He says, the year before

this would happen, bread would be very dear, and the year following, much more troubles should begin, which would last for three years. That the first would be moderate, the second bloody, and the third intolerable; and there was no mischief but poor England must feel at that time; but that George, the son of George should flourish and England be the most Glorious Nation on earth.

Sir Thomas Ashton says, these facts are very well known by every one to have happened just as Nixon said they would; adding that the morning before the Garden Wall fell, his neighbour, Mr. Cholmondley, going a hunting, said, Nixon seldom falls, but now I think he must, for he foretold this day my garden wall should fall, and I think it looks as if it would stand forty years.

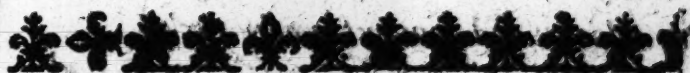
That he had not been gone a quarter of an hour, before the wall split, and fell upwards, against the rising of the hill, which, as Nixon foretold, was the presage of a flourishing State of the Church.

As there are several particulars in this

prophecy unfilled, so when they come to pass, some other, circumstances may be added, that are not conveniently told till accomplished. And we hope from the Veracity of the foregoing evidences, the truth of the related accomplishments of Nixon's Prophecy will not be doubted by the Reader.



THE



THE
L I F E
O F
N I X O N,
THE
Cheshire Prophet.

I Have read your Cheshire Prophecy, and must needs say, that what you have added is to be found in the original, and have now sent you some meterial passages, to make it complete : to which I have added a short account of his Life, which I have had from one old Woodman, of Copnal, who is now the only man I can meet with that remembered the Prophet.

He says, that Nixon was a short squab Fellow, had a great bead and goggle eyes, that he used to drivel as he spoke, which was

very seldom, and was extremely surly.

Against children he particularly had a spite, especially if they made any sport of him, and would run after them and beat them. At first he was a plough-boy to farmer Crowton, of Swanton, and so stubborn, they could make him do nothing without beating. They could seldom get any thing out of him, but Yes and No, unless he was pinched with hunger; for he had a very good stomach, and could eat up his dinner, and a good bunch of bread and cheese after it.

The first time he was found out to be a Prophet, was on this occasion: Farmer Crowton being one day at work in the field, near the river Wexer, and his boy Nixon following him, the boy stopped on a sudden, dropped his bottle and budget, and stood motionless, with his eyes fixed towards Heaven; when he recovered, he took up the things he dropped, and followed the plough. His master and the men who were at work in the same field, stood by all the while, and thought him in a Fit, but wondered he did not fall. He seemed quite insensible of any alteration that had happened to him; but for about a quarter of an hour he talked very reasonable about

several things which had been done some time before, and dropped expressions of others that were to be done, which presently made his Master and those about him conclude Nixon's dullness had something Sacred in it, and that his words were Oracles, especially when some things he foretold came out according to his Prediction. It was with this farmer he lived when he prophecyed of his master's ox, as before mentioned in the history.

I must here correct an error which you have been led into, concerning the Wall, which some persons have applied to the Church. Whereas in truth it relates only to the State. For Woodman says, that its fall was to denote some remarkable change in Government; that if it fell towards on a serene day, it was to be an advantageous change; but if it fell into the brook on a stormy day, then the contrary. To this they added, that the Cholmondley family kept several men in pay to support the wall, and every month to inspect it all around that it was buttressed both within and without; and the week before it fell down, the workmen gave in their report, that it was so strong it might reasonably stand an hundred

years without repairs. It *fell* on August 4. 1688, about *Eleven* in the forenoon, being a very calm and cool day; and it *fell inwards all at once, and not so much as one single stone falling outwards.*

This happened so short a time before the Revolution, it was taken notice of as an incident much to our advantage, and as the men of *Cheshire* were as much in the interest of the Prince of Orange as any country in England, why may we not imagine that *Nixon's* prophecy contributed to it. The objection might be, That *Thomas Cholmondley, Esq.* was a Jacobite, and that nothing but him could contribute to the Revolution. But his being a Jacobite gives the greater authority to the prediction and the *fulfilling it.* For it is not *likely* that one that was such an enemy to the Prince of Orange, should let a miracle be wrought in favor of the happy change it soon accomplished.

This prophecy also much animated the people of *Cheshire*, when the rebels advanced to *Preston*, intending to march through that country into *Flintshire & Denbighshire*; and if they had, their rout must have been thro' *De la Mere Forest*, where *Nixon* lived

and prophecyed, and the *Miller Peter* with his countrymen were determined to have given great credit to your prophecy, which is abused when it has any interpretation applied to it which has an eye to popery and slavery; for as great a *Fool* as Nixon was, he was not so stupid as many of our modern zealor, nor ever dropped a word against the *Protestant Religion*. But please to pardon the digression, and now I will return to old Woodman.

He further informed me, that after it was known what a prophet farmer Crowton had in his family, Mr. Cholmondley sent for him, and kept him at his house, giving him in charge to his steward, and ordered him to try if he could make any thing of him, and learn him to read; but Nixon's stupidity increased the more on him, the more the steward endeavoured to improve him; and the most that he could get out of him was, just to make him hold the goad right, and drive the oxen to plow. As he was once in the fields with the rest of Mr. Cholmondley's servants, he let fall his goad on a sudden, as he had done his bottle & budget before.— He stood motionless after the same manner, with his eyes fixed towards Heaven. The

servants calked to him & beat him, to drive him to work, but to no purposs. He remained in a sort of trance for about an hour, and then recovering, he took up his goad, and went on his business as if nothing had befallen him. One of *Mr. Cholmondley's* men asked what ailed him, and why he stood there so long? To which he replied, he had seen those things he could tell them, & which man never saw before. He then discoursed with the servants who crowded round him, for near 2 hours, and spoke as reasonable as the best of them would have done, without hesitation. He foretold *the civil wars, the death of Charles I. the restoration of Charles II. the revolution, a glorious war with France, and the flourishing state of this kingdom after it. Adding these things will certainly be, as I shall be sent for by the king, and starved to death.* When he had finished his speech, he returned into his wonted dulness and silence, and was always dull and mute, unless in one of his trances, when he spoke clearly: & with an air of assurance that they would be accomplished. As soon as the servants came home, they informed their master of the prodigy, & Mr. Cholmondley ordered them to write down as much as they could remember, which they

ed, and it is preserved in the family like hidden treasure.

As Nixon's being sent for to court by King James I. Woodman informs me it was thus: That when he came to the court, the king gave him in charge to one of his officers, commanding him to make observations on his behaviour, as he could be assured he was no impostor.

This gentleman kept Nixon locked up, and going in a hurry with King James to Theobalds, he forgot to take care of him, and serve him with provisions till his return, whereby he was starved to death.

Nixon, it must be observed, could not speak, unless when he came out of his trance, and he could not pronounce one sensible word more than Aye or No, unless when pronouncing his oracles; and what is very remarkable, after he came to court, he no ways satisfied their curiosity, for he remained entirely dumb.

Nixon was very grateful to his Master, Cholmondley, for he prophecyed the heir to be born to his family three score and ten years after, should be endowed with eminent qualifications, and arrive at greater honour than any of his ancestors.

That he should distinguish himself by his loyalty and service to the king then reigning, and after the happy settlement that should succeed the struggle, the peace should be lasting, with series of honour and glory unto the nation.

This child, prophecy'd Nixon, shall be known by the appearance of an eagle at the time of his birth. A long time before the eagle appear'd, the country people used to look out for it, and as often as the Lady of Vale lay in, they would cry, *Where is the eagle? When will Nixon's heir be born?* The appearance of the eagle was about 25 years agoe. The Lady who lay in was aunt to Henry St. John, late Lord Bolingbroke. When she was in labour, she heard great shoutings & acclamations of joy, & enquiring the reason, was told the eagle was come.

Upon which her sister and Mrs. J.S. who are both living, went to the window, saw the eagle sit on the bow, and looked at it about a quarter of an hour. It was seen all by several thousands of people, as is such confirmation of Nixon's prophecy, the truth is not to be doubted by either gentle or simple.

There is some variation in the prophecy concerning the competitors for the kingdom.

The Dutch, Germans, and the Danes, are to conquer those that bring fire and famine

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lague and murder, in the folds of their gar-
ments.

None but papists would bring such ruin
amongst protestants.

As to the miller Peter he was born about
the time of the revolution, and ~~When~~ pro-
phesied he should have two heels on one
foot and be knighted.

The two heels he has got already, but
the spurs of knighthood are not yet come
to his Lot.

Yet, however, the country people in this
neighbourhood have knighted him these
many years, and honest Peter the miller is
now Sir Peter in the eyes of every body.

I must hear correct an error in Doctor Ad-
dison in his Freeholder, who has not read
your prophecy with that attention & regard,
a thing of such importance deserves; for he
gives to the miller two heirs. A mistake in
the text of a prophecy is of a dangerous
consequence, and I do not doubt but this
error will be corrected in future editions,
and justice done unto honest Peter the
miller.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

W. E.

Thus having endeavoured, by giving
the several recitals and attestations of many
persons of probity and veracity, concern-
ing the Prophecies of this Man; and
shall leave the Reader to judge of it
accordingly.

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F I N I S

